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## Digital USD

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Digital Initiatives Symposium

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# The Cycle of User-Responsive Collection Development in Digital Libraries

Genevieve Podleski

*Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis*, [genevieve.m.podleski@stls.frb.org](mailto:genevieve.m.podleski@stls.frb.org)

Jane Davis

*Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis*, [jane.m.davis@stls.frb.org](mailto:jane.m.davis@stls.frb.org)

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## The Cycle of User-Responsive Collection Development in Digital Libraries

### Presenter 1 Title

Senior Digital Projects Librarian

### Presenter 2 Title

Digital Library Projects Coordinator

### Session Type

45-minute concurrent session

### Abstract

Traditional collection development strategies may not be sufficient to effectively expand the use of a digital library or repository. Librarians working on FRASER, a digital library of economic history that is both a subject and institutional repository, have developed a cyclical strategy of user-responsive collection development. Collections developed in response to stakeholder needs include materials on historic responses to mortgage defaults during the Great Depression, and on the causes of historic panics and depressions, which grew out of the research priorities of policymakers and economists during the financial crisis of 2007. This session will provide an overview of FRASER's traditional collection development policy and demonstrate the cyclical model of user-responsive collecting with concrete use cases.

### Location

KIPJ D

### Keywords

digital libraries, collection development, institutional repositories, stakeholders, users, use case

### Session Title

The Cycle of User-Responsive Collection Development in Digital Libraries  
(45 minute concurrent session)

### Presenters

Jane M. Davis, Digital Library Projects Coordinator, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis,  
jane.m.davis@stls.frb.org

Genevieve Podleski, Senior Digital Projects Librarian, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis  
genevieve.m.podleski@stls.frb.org

### Abstract

Traditional collection development strategies may not be sufficient to effectively expand the use of a digital library or repository. Librarians working on FRASER, a digital library of economic history that is both a subject and institutional repository, have developed a cyclical strategy of user-responsive collection development. Collections developed in response to stakeholder needs include materials on historic responses to mortgage defaults during the Great Depression, and on the causes of historic panics and depressions, which grew out of the research priorities of policymakers and economists during the financial crisis of 2007. This session will provide an overview of FRASER's traditional collection development policy and demonstrate the cyclical model of user-responsive collecting with concrete use cases.

### Session Description

FRASER, the digital library of economic history, uses a collection development strategy consciously incorporating user feedback and partner input. FRASER is part of a research department that includes other research information output of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. This includes the Economic Education program, which produces personal finance, economics, and economic history lessons for teachers, and the FRED suite of websites, which aggregate and make available to the public economic and business datasets. In recent years, FRASER librarians have made an effort to adjust collection development strategies to coordinate with these information products and better respond to the needs of our collective audience.

In 2004, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Research Library saw an opportunity to build a digital library focused on economic and banking history, and created the Federal Reserve Archival System for Economic Research (FRASER). Beginning with historic economic statistical publications produced by both the federal government and the Federal Reserve Banks, FRASER's digitization projects focused on granting researchers access to data on historic economic conditions in the United States.

To provide further context for our users, we added monetary policy documents (including congressional hearings, speeches, and testimony of Federal Reserve Chairman and Board members), and developed deep collections on monetary policy history and early central banking in the United States. Through partnerships with other Federal Reserve Banks, the Library of Congress, and other research institutions, we have digitized institutional publications not widely available to the public as well as significant archival collections and Federal Reserve records relating to economic and banking history.

Although the core of FRASER's collection remains the institutional output of the Federal Reserve System, we have developed strategies for adding additional materials and expanding collections in direct response to the needs of our internal and external stakeholders.

The user-responsive cycle of collection development for FRASER has five basic steps:

1. Working from the formal collection development plan, identify gaps in the existing collection
2. Add content
3. Working with partners, identify specific uses for the new content
4. Identify additional content that needs to be added to support these uses
5. Reassess collection development priorities and revise as necessary

Because we digitize in-house, FRASER has the flexibility to efficiently add materials in direct response to the needs of stakeholders. Internal and external users have requested material on many topics. When stakeholder requests fit with our mission and our budget, they are added to our project list. At times, recommendations do not fit our mission or our collections; those we leave to other, more suitable digital libraries.

This session will provide an overview of FRASER and the FRASER collection development policy, and will illustrate user needs and collections strategies with specific examples.

By the conclusion of this session, attendees should be able to:

- Define and discuss cyclical user-centric collection development
- Recognize appropriate collection development responses to specific user needs
- Infer possible applications of this collection development model for other repository or digital library contexts.

#### Keywords

digital libraries, collection development, institutional repositories, stakeholders, users, use case

#### Technology requirements

Computer with PowerPoint and internet access and overhead screen preferred